

**Amendments to th Specification**

Please replace "Apparatus and Method for Control Messaging in an Optical Network" on page 1, line 1 with "Controlling Messaging in an Optical Network".

Please add new paragraphs after the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 2 and ending on page 3, line 8 as follows:

— In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a control messaging system, which includes: an optical cable which is connected to a multi-service platform (MSP) at one end and is connected to a connector at the other end; the MSP has a first controller; the connector having a cross-connect and a second controller; within the optical cable, a number of optical fibres being assigned for the transmission of data; at least one of the optical fibres being assigned for use as a provisioning data path; an Operations, Administration, Maintenance and Provisioning (OAM&P) subsystem connected to the provisioning data path through the connector; the first controller signaling a source identity to the OAM&P subsystem over the provisioning data path; and the second controller signaling a destination identity to the OAM&P subsystem from the cross-connect.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of provisioning a system, which includes the steps of; starting a process at a first entry; plugging in an optical cable to a connector having a cross-connect, viz. the destination, and a multi-service platform, viz. the source; the optical cable having a number of optical fibres assigned for the transmission of data; at least one of said optical fibres being uniquely assigned for use as a provisioning data path; forwarding the destination identity from the cross-connect to an OAM&P subsystem; forwarding the source identity from the multi-service platform to the OAM&P subsystem over the uniquely assigned provisioning data path within the optical cable. —

Please amended the following paragraph beginning on page 6, line 6 and ending on page 6, line 15.

--The flowchart in Figure 3 shows some typical sequences of events during the provisioning processes and is next described with reference also to Figure 2[[ I]]. The process usually starts at step 301 when a prefabricated cable 120 is physically plugged

in to the system. In the case described here making this physical connection at step 305 results in the destination identity, that is the identity of the connection at the cross-connect, to be transmitted to an OAM&P subsystem 150 at step 310. Next the identity of the source, that is the identity of the connection at the MSP, is transmitted to the OAMP&P subsystem 150 over the embedded provisioning data path 121 at step 315. If the connection has not yet been assigned at step 320, the process terminates at step 325. Otherwise the relevant source parameters, for example the bit-rate and protocol, are also transmitted 355 to the OAM&P subsystem 150 over the embedded provisioning data path 121 at step 355. --

Please amended the following paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16 and ending on page 6, line 19.

-- In cases where the logical provisioning process is carried out separately, the process starts at step 302 and a check is carried out to ensure a physical connection already exists at step 350. If it does not exist, the process terminates at step 390. Otherwise the source parameters are transferred to the OAM&P subsystem at step 355 as described previously. --

**Amendments to the Title**

Please replace the title "Apparatus and Method for Control Messaging in an Optical Network" with new title "Controlling Messaging in an Optical Network".